

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EEWT, UR

SUBJECT: BIG SOVIET CONTRACT FOR CONTROL DATA CORP. (CDC)

REF: MOSCOW 19303

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT IN EARLY DECEMBER BETWEEN CDC/CGG AND FTO ELEKTRONORGTEKHNIKA FOR A COMPUTER SYSTEM DESTINED FOR USE IN SEISMIC RESEARCH IN THE SAKHALIN ISLAND AREA. THE END USE, AS SPECIFIED BY THE MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY, WILL BE FOR PROCESSING OIL AND GAS PROSPECTING DATA FROM THAT AREA. THE FRENCH FIRM COMPAGNIE DE GEOPHYSIQUE (CGG) WILL SUPPLY SOFTWARE TOTALLING 3.3 MILLION DOLLARS, WHILE CDC WILL SUPPLY HARDWARE AND OPERATING SOFTWARE TOTALLING 9.7 MILLION DOLLARS. THE CONTRACT CALLS FOR A CYBER 172 COMPUTER; HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS HAVE REQUESTED THAT THIS BE UPGRADED OVER A PERIOD OF ROUGHLY THREE YEARS TO A CYBER 173 AND FINALLY A 174. THE EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO COMMERCE IN JANUARY 1977.

2. CDC IS PREPARING TWO ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS IN THE SEISMIC APPLICATION SECTOR, SIMILAR IN CONFIGURATION TO THE
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SAKHALIN ISLAND CONTRACT. ONE SYSTEM, WHICH WILL BE

NEGOTIATED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1977, IS FOR SEISMIC RESEARCH IN YAKUTSK (SIBERIA). DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN YAKUTSK, THE COMPUTER WOULD BE PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN IRKUTSK, 2000 MILES SOUTHWEST OF THE EXPLORATION REGION. THE SECOND PROPOSAL, AGAIN OF SIMILAR CONFIGURATION AND DOLLAR VALUE AS THE SAKHALIN ISLAND CONTRACT, INVOLVES A CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN TYUMEN. THIS WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977.

3. CDC REPORTS THAT THE MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSING ITS SEISMIC RESEARCH PLANS WITH CDC SINCE ISSUANCE OF THE US EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE CYBER 172 FOR PETROLEUM RESEARCH EARLIER THIS YEAR. KISSINGER

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